

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

mood: the feeling or atmosphere the writer creates for the reader

setting: the time and place in which the action of a story or poem occurs

descriptive details: language that paints a picture or an image of a scene

figurative language: words with meaning beyond their literal definition

sound effects: words and phrases that use sound to create a feeling

rhythm: a pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in poetry

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Respond to the piece. Write down how the poem or story makes you feel.

Step 2: Look at word choice. Ask yourself the following questions.

- Which details help me picture the setting, characters, and action?
- What figurative language—metaphors, similes—add to the mood?
- What sound devices—rhythm, rhyme, repetition—affect mood?

Step 3: Use a graphic organizer to categorize words that affect the mood.

Step 4: Determine the mood. Reread your first response. Has analyzing the details changed it? What adjectives sum up the overall feeling or atmosphere?

EXAMPLE: MOOD What words sum up the mood of these lines?

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;
5 That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.
He has left the village and mounted the steep,
10 And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “Paul Revere’s Ride”